

The University of Alaska Southeast

# Whalesong

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## Salary adjustments for faculty proposed by Chancellor Lind

Wide disparity in faculty pay prompts new plan, designed to keep, and bring in, UAS professors

By Larry Hurlock  
Whalesong Reporter

Rather than giving across-the-board or performance-related salary increases this year, Chancellor Marshall Lind has proposed one-time salary adjustments. The adjustments are to be based on national averages of faculty pay, averages reflecting an individual's faculty ranking and discipline.

Currently UAS faculty receive from 30 percent above the national average to 18 percent below the national average based on rank (professor, associate, etc.) and discipline

(English, math, etc.). Averages are provided by the College and University Personnel Association (CUPA).

The chancellor said he wants to establish a target of 10 percent above national averages as the new standard for UAS' salaries. Only a faculty member currently receiving less than 10 percent above the national average for her position would receive a raise retroactive to Jan. 1, 1995.

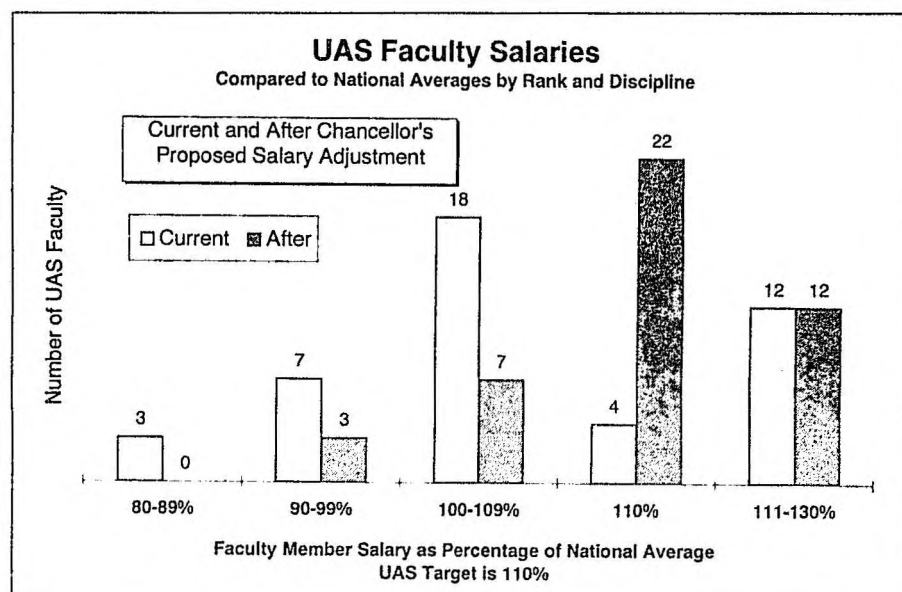
Using the proposed standard, only 28 of 44 non-union faculty at UAS would be eligible to receive pay raises this year. The others are already

10-30 percent above the national average. Unfortunately for 10 faculty members, because university regulations prohibit any individual's pay increase to exceed 10 percent in one year, they will remain below the proposed standard.

The median nine-month salary among the 44 non-union faculty is \$50,000. The top is \$66,000, and the lowest is \$26,000.

The chancellor is proposing that all funds available for raises this year be pooled and the total amount used to give one-time equity adjustments based on CUPA averages.

Both discretionary funds (available for promotion and

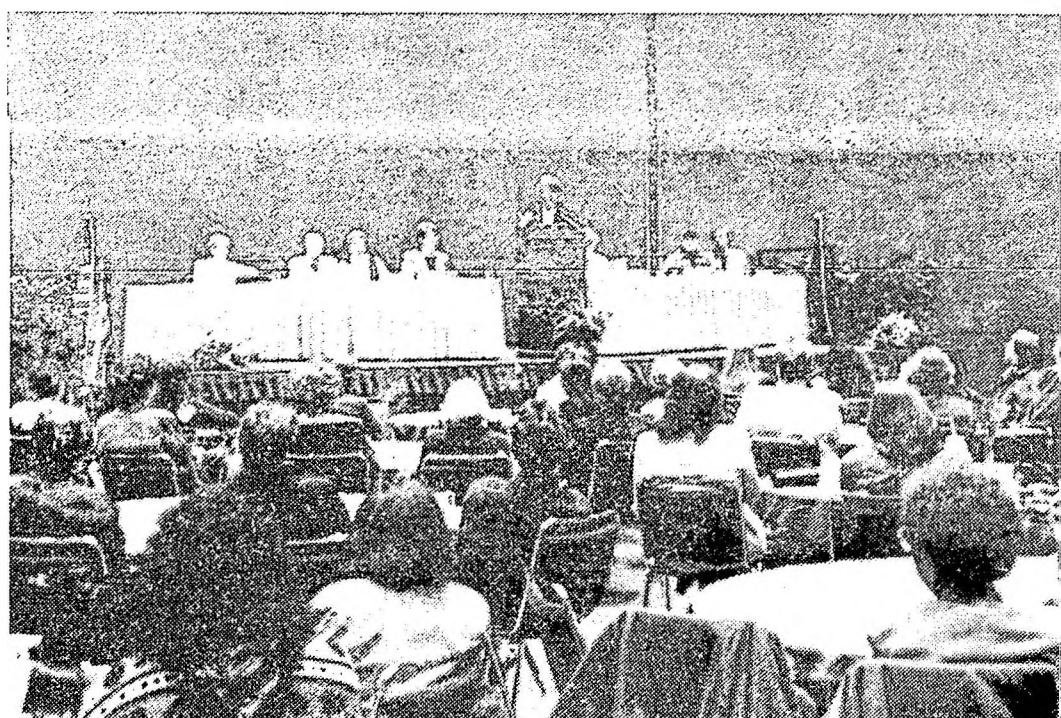


equity adjustment), and annual funds (available for raises for teaching evaluations, research, and service) would be combined for this purpose. The chancellor must get per-

mission from the Board of Regents to waive university salary regulations in order to carry out his plan.

See Salary page #15

## The first Alaska Women's Conference



*"What is initially unthinkable, looks impossible, is ultimately inevitable."*

Photo by Nathaniel Munson

Last day of the conference, which took place from March 29-31 at Centennial Hall. Panel speakers include, from left to right: Joyanne Bloom, Ann House, Ethel Lund, Jane Angrik, Beverly Beaton (speaking), Dana Fabe, Rosemary Hagevig, Selina Everson.

By Marsha J. Thomason  
Whalesong Reporter

For Ann House, the Alaska Women's Conference was an opportunity to share the vision and experience she gained at the International Women's Conference in Beijing last year.

House, the principal organizer of the historic first Alaska Women's Conference held March 29-31 at Centennial hall, said her vision was the "direct result of an innate belief that in order to keep something you must first give it away."

For those 300 plus in at-

tendance, including 22 U.A.S. students who received scholarships provided by Student Government and Bruce Gifford, the AWC was an effort to "bring Beijing home."

This conference allowed women and men of Alaska an opportunity for networking, teaching, and learning.

Committee participants were able to renew old friendships as well as form new ones. There was love, laughter, tears, singing, and dancing. It was a time of celebration, rejuvenation, and inspiration.

There is little doubt that the women and men who shared this event possess a



deeper sense of connection and understanding with their fellow residents of this state, country, and world. Though only three short days were spent, they are days with immense significance to the future of Alaska and the leader-

See Conference page #14

## Money matters

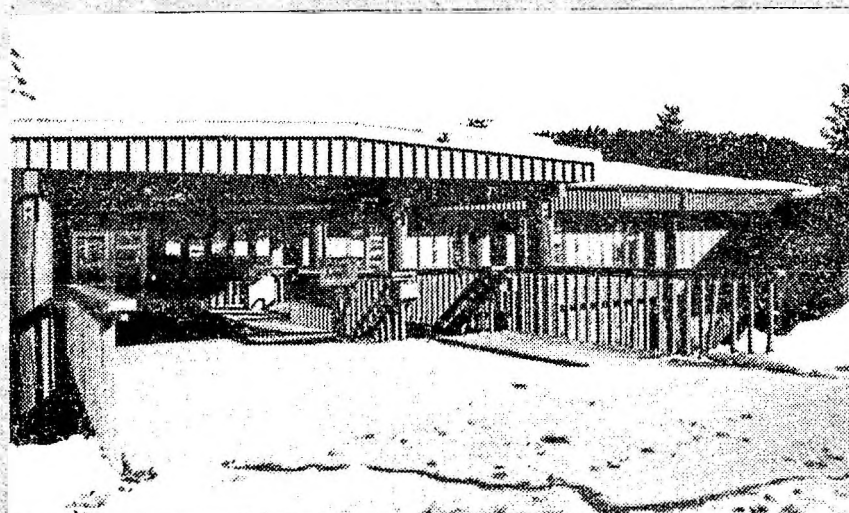
Mourant reconstruction plans will be severely limited by budget constraints, say organizers

By Tim Betz  
Whalesong Reporter

Most of the business office staff moved out of the Mourant Building during Spring Break, and the building's lower level is nearly ready for renovation to begin. The Mourant Committee reconvened on Tuesday, March 22nd, to make the decisions regarding Mourant Building modifications. Chairperson Bruce Gifford began the meeting by stating, "given the tight money situation for the upstairs, the downstairs will be on a shoestring."

According to Gifford, UAS' budget restrictions will result in a "phase in" approach to the committee's approved changes for the building. Gifford pointed out that UAS probably cannot afford to implement, by next fall, all the changes that the committee wants. Many of the committee's proposed additions to the Mourant Building will have to wait until funding becomes available, and changes to the building will take place according to what items are deemed most essential.

See Money page #4



Major remodeling will take place inside the Mourant Building (above) this summer.

Stephanie Anderson

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## UAS Photo Poll: How much does the chancellor get paid annually? (Correct answer: \$105,000)

"Three new cars and a haircut." -Julie, no last name given (below)



"About 80,000." -Sharon Stora (above)

"One lump sum of two dollars." -Chris Cavanaugh (below)



"\$120,000." -Jason Cornelius (above)

"\$125,000. No, maybe only \$80,000...I like the first guess better. 125,000" -Dave Newman (below)



### Editorial

## Proposed "English Only" legislation is a slap in the face to all bilingual speakers

There is good legislation. There is bad legislation. And then there is intolerable legislation. Many of you might not know about House Bill 512, sponsored Rep. Pete Kott (R-Eagle River), which falls into the third category.

The bill is a proposed act "establishing English as the official language and related to the use of English in public records and at public meetings of state agencies." Frankly, this bill seems useless. HB 512 is nothing more than an ideological statement asserting powers which are already in place. Furthermore, this bill is contradictory to all legislation promoting multi-lingual education. HB 512 is unnecessary, divisive, and humiliating to the indigenous people of this state, to all bilingual speakers, and more importantly, to us as Americans.

Perhaps this bill comes from a fear that a language other than English will some day take over our society. This may be a more valid fear in some parts of Los Angeles, or in New York City...but in Alaska??? Even English-speakers in large cities, however, need not worry: Over 97 percent of Americans speak English, according to recent data published by the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE). In Los Angeles, there are some English classes which

operate 24 hours day, and there are up to 50,000 people on waiting lists.

Alaskan Natives (as well as all American Indians) are in a unique situation as indigenous people who call the United States their homeland. Their culture, language, and very identity have developed here, not overseas. If Alaskan Natives are not allowed to practice their languages freely, their languages will be lost. Many are already facing extinction. Alaska's lawmakers should make every effort to encourage, not discourage, the use of these languages.

It cannot be denied that the intrusion of white, English-speaking settlers had a lot to do with the loss of Alaskan Native language and culture. Let's not forget, however, that English speakers weren't even the first to begin to settle our great state — Europeans (Russians and French fur traders) were here long before our neighbors to the south discovered Alaska's valuable resources. Most importantly, before any outsiders arrived, there were the original Native inhabitants. They, above everyone else, should be honored today by being able to speak their native language wherever and whenever they wish.

The proposal for HB 512 has been vehemently opposed by many groups of Alaskan Natives throughout the state. I had the opportunity to read

over several letters sent to various representatives concerning HB 512. Among many other things, these letters stressed the fact that this bill would serve to divide, not unite, Alaskan people.

By flagrantly disregarding the importance of native languages, House Bill 512 represents more than just language. With just one sentence, it dismisses entire cultures and world views, which should be celebrated, not ignored. This bill, if passed, would be giving young Natives (or any young bilingual speakers, for that matter) the impression that their language, and thus their heritage, is secondary and unimportant. How can we believe in a government that supposedly supports bilingual education, but then turns around and tells us that non-English languages are not allowed in their meetings?

Whether we are Alaskan Natives or not, we should be concerned about the proposed HB 512. Plain and simple, it violates our constitutional right to freedom of speech, whatever the language may be. As stated by the National Association for Bilingual Education, "American ideals of freedom, democracy, and tolerance — not language — have been and always will be the bonds that hold America together."

## Letters to the editor

The *Whalesong* encourages reader response. All letters must be signed with author's full name and may be edited for style, libel, and brevity. Submission is no guarantee of publication.

## Correction

The picture of Christine Crooks in our March 21 issue ("Lessons for UAS in distance learning") showed her presenting at a live, interactive, statewide television broadcast of "Inclusion", from KTOO studios. It was not, as we stated, taped and later distributed. We apologize for this error.



# Whalesong

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The University of Alaska Southeast student newspaper, *The Whalesong*, is a bi-monthly publication with a circulation of 2000 copies per issue. The *Whalesong's* primary audience is UAS students, although its broader audience includes faculty, staff, and community members. *Whalesong* will strive to inform and entertain its readers, analyze and provide commentary on the news, and serve as a public forum for the free exchange of ideas. The staff of the *Whalesong* values freedom of expression and encourages reader response.

The *Whalesong* editorial staff assumes no responsibility for the content of material written by non-staff members. The views and opinions contained in this paper in no way represent the University of Alaska and reflect only those of the author(s). The editorial staff is solely responsible for content.

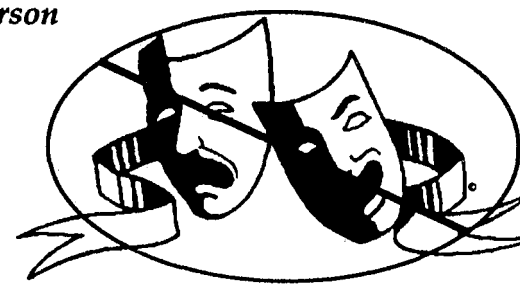
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### Opinion

## Cuts to arts funding do not eliminate right to free speech

By Robert Pearson  
*Whalesong*  
Columnist



During the fierce and sometimes emotional debate sparked recently when the House Finance committee threatened to "zero out" funding for the state Arts Council, and in the future for public broadcasting, I heard the claim more than once that this funding fight was a matter of free speech rights, that denying state funding was somehow an assault on the First Amendment.

I don't want to debate here whether government funding of the arts is a social good, a sign of civilization or, on the other hand, a waste of tax money. The advocates for these positions have stated their cases, and obviously the case for government funding was persuasive for our legislators in the past. Such funding has been around for many years here in Alaska. But cutting that money is not a suppression of free speech, or any other constitutional right.

There is undeniably a right to be heard in our society. I have my opinion about this issue, and I'm being allowed to express it in the *Whalesong* (well, I hope this gets accepted). If the editor of the *Whalesong* decides that this opinion doesn't fit in with what she wants to do in this issue, she can print it later.

**Artists, actors and writers can and will continue to create art even if government grants are eliminated.**

The thing I don't have a right to is to get paid for producing this, or to expect others to be forced to provide a distribution network for my views whether they want to or not.

Now I'm not claiming that what I'm doing here is equivalent to Michaelangelo's "David"; after all,

he had some pretty solid government support for his projects. I'm just trying to make the point that I can say what I want, and so can you, without government funding.

Artists, actors and writers can and will continue to create art even if government grants are eliminated. No one is going to stop them from creating controversial pieces, either. There were certainly plenty of those before government arts funding!

The debate over whether and how much to fund arts through government is a legitimate one, and I believe that advocates of the funding have legitimate arguments for why it should be continued.

But it is not a free speech issue, and accusing those who disagree with you about being against the First Amendment will not win them, or anyone else, over. The funding for the state Arts Council was partially restored, though at a reduced level, and no doubt we'll here more of this debate in the next session of the legislature.

Once again someone will propose cutting arts funding from the budget, and once again, I'm sure there will be claims that this is a suppression of free speech. But the claims will be as incorrect as they are now.

### A Male's Perspective

## Society needs to recognize and encourage importance of "feminine" qualities

By Tim Betz  
*Whalesong* Reporter

Would you, as a father, want to discourage your daughter from pursuing any dream or ambition that she might have?

If you feel that disheartening your daughter so that she feels inadequate to pursue her dreams would make you reprehensible as a parent, then you must also be willing to accept woman in leadership.

The barriers that prevent women from acquiring leadership positions gradually decay with each passing generation. And the woman's movement promises to provide the world with a new kind of leader.

During The Alaska Women's Conference, held here in Juneau from March 29-31, a recurrent theme called for woman's equality without sacrificing femininity. The women's conference called for a new kind of leader. Throughout the conference, many women expressed disdain towards the traditionally masculine qualities of competitiveness, dominance and aggressiveness.

Many women rebuked the need for these characteristics, instead affirming the feminine qualities of nurture, support and service. The women's

movement, rather than encouraging women to compete with men for dominance and power, argued instead that society needs to recognize the greater value found through nurturing and collaborating.

The Women's Conference promised that as more daughters acquire positions of greater influence, more feminine qualities will permeate leadership.

With a promise of providing a leader who gives more support to people, rather than one who just wants power over people, a man might ask "what role can I play in establishing equality for woman?"

At the conference a man named Merritt Helfferich moderated a seminar that precisely addressed this question. He talked about his daughter. He also talked about how people become trapped in the roles that they play. He said that men could do a lot more to nurture their daughters as well as their sons.

But he said that little can be done for an adult male to completely free himself from the trap of his socially-assigned role. He said that the best men can do to further women's equality, other than being good fathers, is to stop presenting barriers.

Most concisely, he said that men should "just get out of the way."

## If you can't do the time, don't do the crime

"No frills" bill results in angry letter from female inmate, provoking author's response - get a grip!

By Annette Nelson-Wright  
*Whalesong* Columnist

I really have to take issue with a letter written by Vicki Pusich, which appeared in the Letters to the Editor section of the Anchorage Daily News, on Feb. 28. Pusich is an inmate at Lemon Creek Correctional Center here in Juneau and is quite upset over Senate Bill 175, the "No-Frills" bill that just might take away her cable television, cigarettes, weights and other amenities. She admonishes us in the first line of her letter saying that we need to "Get a grip on reality! SB 175 is not reality!" With all due respect to Ms. Pusich, she ought to be the one "getting a grip" because when this bill becomes law, it will be her "reality" for 18 years.

Pusich laments the loss of a comfortable bed, wall-to-wall carpeting, a spacious home and a varied menu suited to her palette, served at a time when she is desirous of nutrition. She also takes exception to the brick construction of her home, and the location of lavatory facilities relative to her bed, more precisely, to where she rests her head upon retiring for the

**Pusich talks of loss of freedom. She failed to mention that the victims of her crime, a father Mark, his son Brian, and Brian's friend Jaime, are no longer free, they are dead.**

evening. Another point at issue is that she is "forced" to eat with "murderers, rapists, and child molesters".

She is duly dismayed that anyone would consider these conditions frivolous and laden with frills. She says that she does have a television, (which she paid for herself) but she cannot watch it unless she hooks it up to the cable system at a cost TO HER, of \$53 a month. There are times, Pusich tells us when she must do without an item such as soap, shampoo or deodorant for a week, because they are "out" and she is unable to purchase them. She cannot smoke in common areas, which includes living and dining areas.

All of this according to Pusich amounts to, "loss of freedom, loss of privacy, loss of dignity and loss of self-esteem. . . the loss of some real

See Crime page #13



## Money from page #1

Construction of the new kitchen and the new bookstore are first on the list of changes to the Mourant Building, according to the "phase in" process. The completion of student government offices, student activities offices, student lounge, video arcade room, club space and inter-cultural center will most likely be constructed at a later date.

Other than a larger kitchen for the Mourant Cafeteria and a larger bookstore located downstairs, the rest of the Mourant Building will, for the next few years, remain in its current configuration.

Eventually, the student lounge and the student government offices will be located downstairs. The upstairs space presently occupied by these rooms will be converted into a banquet room, but Gifford indicated that the banquet room will probably have to wait until UAS acquires more money to fund moving the student government offices.

The *Whalesong* office will in the future be replaced by a coffee shop, but the committee has made no recommendation for accommodating the *Whalesong* downstairs. The amount of space available has become an issue; the administration does not know where the *Whalesong* will eventually go. However, since Gifford believes that UAS lacks all the funding for all the changes, he feels that the *Whalesong* will remain for the next few years in its current location.

Another issue concerns a request made by several Native Alaskan groups for UAS to establish a Native Alaskan cultural center in the Mourant Building, but once again, the space available in the building limits such requests.

Gifford thinks that the UAS really needs another building and hopes that

**The Mourant Committee, in addition to the changes already approved, desires construction of an outside deck that will adjoin the new student lounge downstairs... when this proposal was mentioned to Physical Plant Superintendent, Bob Green, he said, "we have lots of dreams, but no money."**

the climate in the state legislature will change to provide UAS with the necessary funding. UAS administration has proposed selling the downtown Bill Ray Center to the City of Juneau for use as a police station. Chancellor Marshall Lind said that this would not happen unless UAS acquires enough money to construct a new building at the Auke Lake campus.

The Mourant Committee, in addition to the changes already approved, desires construction of an outside deck that will adjoin the new student lounge downstairs, but this is another item that will be "phased in" sometime in the distant future. When this proposal was mentioned to Physical Plant Superintendent, Bob Green, he said, "we have lots of dreams, but no money."

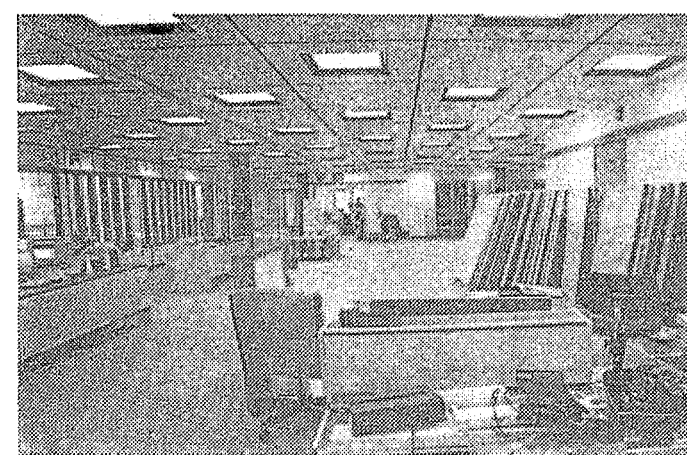
In order to save some money on the renovations, Green's Physical Plant staff will be doing most of the construction on the building. Very little work will be contracted out, as Green's staff can do the work at a lower cost.

Gifford thinks that the cost of renovating the upstairs portion of the Mourant building will be around \$800,000, but is unable at this time to estimate the total cost of all the Mourant Building changes. Green also stated that the physical plant needs to borrow money in order to complete the projects, especially since part of the immediate "phase in" includes repair of the dilapidated Soboloff Annex.

Although most of the administrators have moved to the Bill Ray Center, the Chancellor, his secretary and a few other administrators still inhabit the Mourant Building. Some of them will move to the Bill Ray Center, but most of them will stay at the Auke Lake campus, moving to the Soboloff Annex. The Soboloff Annex currently lacks a floor, drywall, a ceiling and is standing on a poor foundation.

The Soboloff Annex also contains the materials for the new kiln shelter, which is also a part of the "phase in" process. Green hopes to begin construction of the kiln shelter during the spring semester, as soon as the ground has thawed.

The Physical Plant will then work on the Soboloff Annex, the new bookstore and the new kitchen simultaneously. Green hopes that the projects will be completed by next fall.



Current phase of downstairs Mourant construction. Much of the space has been allocated for an enlarged bookstore.

## Briefly

By Marcy L. Peska  
Whalesong Reporter

**Folk Festival:** The 22nd Annual Folk Festival will be held at Centennial Hall starting April 8 and continuing through April 14. For those unable to attend the festival, KTOO radio will be providing live coverage of the main concerts. There will be free admittance to this event and the children's room will be open between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. to children between three and seven. Donations will be requested for child care.

**Easter Celebration:** An all-new adult Easter egg hunt is scheduled for April 5. All UAS students are welcome, and should meet at the Mourant Cafeteria at 5 p.m. Clues for finding the eggs, and the prizes they contain will be provided. The regular children's Easter egg hunt will be held on April 6, beginning at noon. This hunt is open to children of all UAS faculty and students. A special room will be designated for egg hunters under two, while older children will hunt outside, with those between the ages of three to five hunting first.

**Book Signing:** Tom Bodett will be here in Juneau on April 13 to promote his book *As Far As You Can Go*. Mr. Bodett will be reading selections from his book and signing autographs in the vacated space across the hall from Hearthside Books (Nugget Mall).

**Magic Show:** "It's Magic", sponsored by the Gastineau Rotary, will be presenting a matinee and evening show at the Juneau-Douglas High School auditorium on April 20. This show will star magician Gerry Snow as well as Juneau performers Amazing Pescadini and partner Hare E. Houdini. Matinee tickets for adults will be \$10, families \$25, and children under 10 free. The fees for the evening show will be the same except that tickets for children under 12 will cost \$5. Tickets may be purchased at local bookstores and at the door.

**Theater:** "Just Like That" by Juneau artist T. Terry Harvey opens March 22 and runs until April 7. This Perseverance production will be performed at the old KTOO building downtown (on 4th street).

**Perseverance production "Monte Carlo"**, by Lydia Stryck will begin April 12 and end April 28. For more information call 364-2421.

**The Juneau Lyric Opera & Juneau Symphony's 1996 spring production, "The Music Man"** will be shown at the Juneau Douglas High School auditorium April 5 and 6. Shows begin at 7:30 p.m. with a Sunday matinee at 3 p.m. Advance tickets may be purchased at Hearthside Books. Advance tickets for adults are \$12, \$5 for seniors, and \$30 for family tickets. Tickets may also be purchased at the door costing \$14 for adults, \$7 for seniors, and \$35 for family tickets.

**Warm Jamaican Reggae Returns to Juneau:** The popular group will be playing at Hoochi's on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, April 4, 5, 6, and April 11, 12, and 13. The group has opened for such reggae stars as Jimmy Cliff and Ziggy Marley. Contact Jim Cashen at 789-0429 for more info.

**Summer Session Schedules are out:** Phone registration is now underway for those who have previously taken a UAS class. Walk-in registration begins April 22. The 16-page schedule lists more than 70 different classes in art, biology, business, computers, education, English, geology, government, history, math, music, psychology, public administration, sociology, and speech. For more information contact Jean Linthwaite, summer session director, at 465-6282.

**1997-1998 Rotary Foundation Scholarship:** Applications are now available for five Rotary Club scholarships, which total over \$60,000. The deadline for application is May 30, 1996. One Ambassadorial Scholarship for \$22,000 will be awarded for one year of overseas study; at least two years of college coursework must have been completed. A \$10,000 grant will be awarded to a college or university teacher to serve in a developing country for three to five months. For more information, contact Achilles Gaznon at 790-4025.

**Poetry Contest:** The National Library of Poetry is accepting submissions from poets of all ages and levels of experience. Over \$24,000 in prizes will be awarded and many of the poems will be published in an anthology. To enter, send one poem of no more than 20 lines, with the poet's name and address on the top of the page, to The National Library of Poetry, 11419 Cronridge Dr., P.O. Box 704-1987, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Entries must be postmarked by April 15.

**Alaska State Museum exhibit:** "Alaska Positive", a statewide photo exhibit, will be shown until April 6. Between 4:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month, there is free admission to the Alaska State Museum. Students with current I.D. cards always have free admission.

## April is Alcohol Awareness Month...

# So how much do you know about alcohol?

### Did you know that:

Most recent research on college campus drinking focuses on the widespread pattern of binge drinking?

Over half of both sexual assault perpetrators and victims on college campuses report being under the influence of alcohol at the time of the assault?

Two out of three college women with unplanned pregnancies were intoxicated at the time of conception?



For the Whalesong

**Despite the fact that it's illegal in every state except Louisiana for anyone under 21 to buy or drink alcohol, age 18-21 is the period of heaviest alcohol consumption for most drinkers in the United States. This is also when most people go to college.**

It's no surprise, then, that alcohol is the most widely used drug on college campuses (used by 88 percent of all students), and it's inevitable that alcohol will feature somehow in every college student's experience. What your own experience will be can depend a lot on how much you know about alcohol.

**What is a drink, anyway?** Here is the U.S. Dietary Guidelines definition:

A standard drink is either (a) a mixed drink containing 1.5 ounces (one shot) of 80 proof (40 percent) hard liquor; (b) a five-ounce glass of wine (eight to 12 percent alcohol); or (c) a 12-ounce can or bottle of beer (three to four percent alcohol). All three have the same amount of total alcohol in them, and it takes the average person about one and a half hours to metabolize one standard drink (i.e., for the alcohol to leave your bloodstream).

The U.S. Dietary Guidelines also define moderate (safe) drinking limits as two standard drinks per day for adult men, and one standard drink per day for adult women. In addition, those who shouldn't drink at all include: (1) anyone under 21 years old; (2) pregnant women or women who are trying to conceive; (3) people taking any kind of medication; and (4) people who have had previous trouble controlling their drinking.

**Binge drinking.** Most recent research on college campus drinking focuses on the widespread pattern of binge drinking, defined as consuming five or more drinks at one sitting. Roughly 50 percent of college students have reported binge drinking at least once in any given two-week period. This kind of drinking impairs judgment and can lead to high-risk behaviors, for instance:

**Drinking and sex.** A 1993 survey of Duke University students showed that about 40 percent (both men and women) drank heavily to fit in with the popular ideal of "recreational sex," to feel more comfortable or bold, and then experienced a sudden change of mind when it was too late.

Over half of both sexual assault perpetrators and victims on college campuses report being under the influence of alcohol at the time of the assault. Also, eight million people



under age 25 now have a sexually transmitted disease (STD) and as many as three per 1,000 college students today may be infected with HIV.

Finally, two out of three college women with unplanned pregnancies were intoxicated at the time of conception.

**Drinking and academic performances.** At both two and four-year institutions, the heaviest drinkers get the lowest grades, and students with GPA's of D or F drink three times as much as those who earn As.

About one-third of students miss classes, one-fourth perform poorly on tests or projects, and over 40,000 of today's freshmen will drop out of college by next year, all due to alcohol or other drug use.

*This article was prepared by the National Council on Alcoholism/Juneau. For more information, call NCAJ at 463-3755.*

## Myth of drunk safety debunked

By Ed Susman  
Reuters

**ATLANTA**—Contrary to popular myth, people who drive under the influence of alcohol and drugs tend to suffer more injuries than people who are sober during a wreck, researchers reported Saturday.

In one study, New York City doctors found the severity of injury was 20 percent higher in those driving under the influence of alcohol.

In the second study, Houston scientists said more than half of patients admitted to hospitals for trauma fractures were using illicit drugs or alcohol.

"One of the great myths of America," said Dr. John Tongue, clinical assistant professor of orthopedic surgery at the Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, "is that drunks walk away from accidents that kill others who haven't been drinking. The study explodes that myth."

Dr. Thomas Cervoni, chief orthopedic resident at New York Medical College in Valhalla, scrutinized the records of drivers under the influence of drugs or alcohol who were admitted to 16 New York City metropolitan hospital during a 30-month period.

About 25 percent of 1,616 drivers were under the influence when they arrived at the hospitals. About 34 percent of drivers using alcohol or drugs suffered fractures to arms or legs, compared to 29 percent of sober drivers. Four

percent of the drivers using alcohol or drugs were thrown from their vehicles compared to just 1.4 percent of the sober drivers.

Drivers who were under the influence were predominantly male, younger, involved in higher-speed collisions and less likely to be wearing a seat belt than were sober drivers.

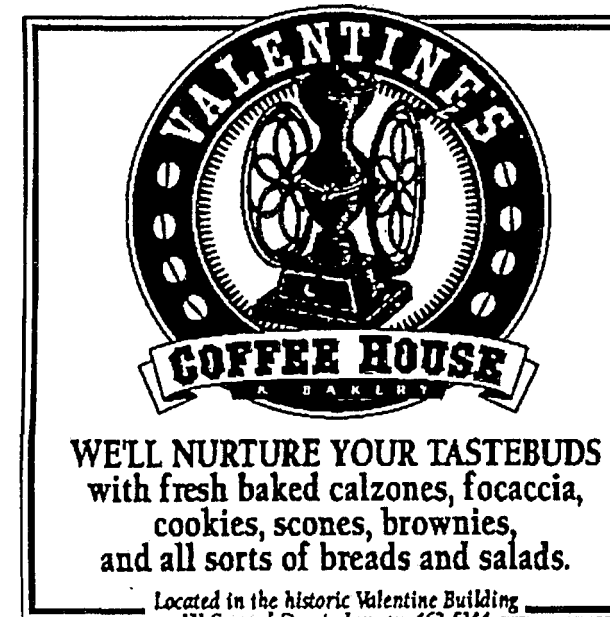
On a rating scale measuring severity of injury, sober drivers scored 9.7, and non-sober drivers registered 11.6 nearly 20 percent more severe.

Dr. Ricardo Martinez, head of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said a new seven-state study found average injury costs were \$9,000 for belted riders, compared to \$14,000 for those who were sitting on their seat belts.

In Houston, Dr. Mark Brinker at Texas Orthopedic Hospital studied records of 650 trauma victims and discovered that 30 percent of the patients admitted with fractures were legally drunk. Forty-one percent of fracture patients tested positive for alcohol, and 22 percent tested positive for one or more illicit drugs.

Sixty percent of the fractures occurred in motor vehicle crashes and 13 percent in falls. Seven percent were in pedestrians hit by cars, and 5 percent were gunshot victims.

"From our data, we are unable to draw definite conclusions as to the cause-and-effect relationship between intoxication and fractures," Brinker said. "However, the fact that more than one in four of our patients was legally intoxicated and over half tested positive to blood alcohol or illicit substances is highly suggestive of this relationship."



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## To loan or not to loan

Graduate students struggle with an increasing debt load. Many, it is reported, have not seriously considered the costs before jumping in.

By Colleen DeBaie  
College Press Service

LAWRENCE, Kan.—Mark S. Luce poetically describes his student loan as a "golden time bomb."

"It's great to have the gold because it allows you to stay in school," explains the graduate student in American studies at the University of Kansas. "But eventually, no matter how much you defer or forbear, that bomb is going to go off."

Like a growing number of graduate students who choose to finance the increasingly high cost of education through student loans, Luce will graduate from UK this August with a master's degree and a pile of debt—in his case, about \$31,000 worth.

Even before he receives his diploma, he will start shelling out roughly \$400 each month to pay off the loans. He plans to do so each month for the next 10 years, slowly chipping away at the \$23,000 in loans he borrowed for graduate school, and the \$7,000 loan for his undergraduate education.

"Frankly, the situation scares the hell out of me," says Luce, who hopes to get a teaching job. "I am talented, I have a solid resume and have performed very well academically, but that does not guarantee me a job that will pay enough money to survive and not default."

For Luce, and countless other like him, paying for graduate school has become as much of a challenge as getting accepted. Between 1993 and 1994, the volume of government loans made to graduates increased by a mind-boggling 47 percent, according to American Council of Education research.

The council attributes the explosive growth to the 1992 Higher Education Amendments, which expanded the federal student loan program and allowed more students to borrow even larger sums of money. But the council is troubled that the increase in the amount loaned by students has not been matched by fatter starting salaries.

"Kids are borrowing more and more and more," said Fred J. Galloway, the council's director of federal policy analysis. "And their first jobs aren't paying more and more and more."

For example, the council's research reveals that between 1981 and 1994, the average debt owed by public medical

school graduates increased from about \$18,000 to more than \$54,000, or by 206 percent. For private medical school graduates, the debt increased from about \$22,000 to nearly \$78,000, or by 248 percent.

Yet the average first-year stipend paid to hospital residents in that same period increased from \$17,641 to only \$29,632. While that's a 68 percent increase, the average med students' debt load continues to pile up.

The fact that tuition skyrocketed in the late 1980s is partly to blame. Confusion on the part of the student as to how much they are sinking into debt is another culprit, the council found.

"There's not much sophistication among student borrowers," Galloway said.

**The average debt owed by public medical school graduates (has) increased from about \$18,000 to more than \$54,000, or by 206 percent.**

Although often compared to families who take out mortgages, student borrowers often leave school without a clear idea of what they've gotten themselves into, as evidenced by the council's study of the most frequently asked questions by borrowers of two major student loan companies.

To combat the confusion, some loan companies, such as private educational lender KeyCorps, have begun urging student borrowers to consider their future earnings before going into debt.

Kevin G. Boyer, executive director of the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students, said he agrees that students should not be shocked when they graduate and discover they owe sometimes more than \$80,000.

"We're highly concerned about increasing debt," he said. His organization advises students to weigh their earning potential heavily when contemplating the price of graduate school. "To take on a large debt . . . without any expectation of net return is not very smart," he said.

private schools once again topped the list among the disciplines of law, medicine and business.

"In some fields, ranking of the schools makes a big difference," Boyer said. For instance, "America's Best Graduate Schools" lists the median starting salary of graduates from top-ranked Yale University law school at \$82,000. In comparison, lawyers with degrees from the state-run University of Washington, ranked 23rd, can expect an average starting salary of \$50,000.

## US-UAS Assembly meeting report

Two evenings of music & dance planned, academic forums proposed, ethical question addressed in recent meeting

By Tim Betz  
Whalesong Reporter

Over the past few weeks, UAS Student Government has taken action not only to offer two evenings of music and dance, but also to present some concerns on a few academic and financial issues. They have recently discussed holding degree forums that will direct a student towards graduation. And they have addressed an ethical question that arises when a faculty member requires a class to use a textbook that was written by that same faculty member.

Student government will co-sponsor with student activities a "Red Neck Ball" scheduled to take place on April 20th at the Echo Bay site. This event will feature country music, dance lessons and contests.

Tish Griffin, student activities director, said that food will be served at "rock bottom" prices. Student government also has plans to co-sponsor with the Whalesong an event called "UAS Rocks the Capitol," on April 26th. Student government appropriated \$1000 to rent ANB Hall and have Hoochies Sports Bar supply alcohol catering. Student government and the Whalesong hope to get several bands to play at this event.

**Academic Matters:** Representative Charlene Solem, who chairs the Academic Affairs Committee, told the student assembly that she submitted a letter to the deans of UAS requesting that they participate in several academic forums.

She desires that each forum give information relating to the various degree programs offered at UAS. Solem pointed out that the UAS often cancels classes during a given year due to insufficient enrollment.

Since such classes are often necessary for some degree programs, then some students, who had originally enrolled for a canceled class, may end up having to spend an additional year before acquiring a degree.

Solem believes that the forums will help students "map out the path towards graduation," which will alleviate the frustration encountered when a required class gets canceled or is not offered during a particular year.

In another academic measure, student government appropriated \$800 for graduation pictures to be taken during commencement.

Student Government agreed to draft a resolution that addresses the faculty senate and asks the faculty to "police themselves" when they require a class to use a textbook that was written by the same person teaching the class.

President Shawn Paul thinks that faculty should not use their own books when that book is not used at other schools. Also student government feels that faculty should not be able to receive royalties when requiring a class to buy his or her book.

**Book Exchange:** Student government also considered starting a student government book exchange. They considered the possibility that student government might be able to buy and sell used text books on a consignment basis which might save UAS students some money. However, this idea was deemed to be too complicated and potentially too costly for student government to undertake. A motion to start a book exchange program failed in a vote by the representatives.

**Censorship of bulletin boards:** Student government also pondered administrative and faculty censorship of student bulletin boards. A bulletin board near the student resource center displayed a picture that illustrated the proper way to don a condom.

Some administrators, as well as some students, found the picture offensive. An administrator was thought to have removed the picture through inappropriate means, but Student Services Director Bruce Gifford explained that the situation was handled correctly.

Student government member's opinions on the board were varied. No action was taken regarding censorship.

## UAS outdoor programmers gear up for Spring activities

Guided day hikes are available for UAS students almost every weekend, and plans for an overnight kayak excursion are in the works

By Dave Kiel  
Whalesong Reporter

Sara Dow and Joel Kafka want to show you the Southeast Alaska outdoors. The two UAS students hold positions as Outdoor Coordinators and their job is to organize outdoor adventures for energetic students.

Kafka was born in Colorado, but grew up in Hawaii. He likes hiking, mountain biking, and rock climbing, but his area of expertise is the water. "I've always been an outdoors person," he said, "but I'm most comfortable on the water. In Hawaii, I paddled an outrigger canoe all through high school."

Dow's outdoor background is just as varied. A transfer student from the University of Oregon, she took last year off and traveled. "I lived in Ireland for a while, and Hawaii before that," she said. "I don't really have a specific interest. I enjoy everything

outdoors."

The two were hired by Activities Director, Tish Griffin. "As near as I can tell," she said, "they have the best jobs on campus." Griffin said the main focus of the program was to take advantage of the natu-

quests from enough students to do a particular activity, they're willing to shift gears and set the wheels in motion.

Recently, a group of seven students did an overnight camping trip at the Eagle Glacier cabin. Despite the soggy

**"We know that the type of student attracted to UAS is generally attracted to the outdoors. We want to provide some wilderness experience and outdoors training that students can't get on other campuses."**

- Tish Griffin, UAS activities director

ral surroundings of the UAS campus. "We know that the type of student attracted to UAS is generally attracted to the outdoors," she said. "We want to provide some wilderness experience and outdoors training that students can't get on other campuses."

Dow and Kafka stress that they can be flexible with the trips they plan. If they get re-

weather, the weekend was a lot of fun.

Kafka and Dow lead day hikes almost every weekend, and have a full slate of activities planned for this spring.

The biggest trip they want to do in April is an overnight kayak excursion, possibly to Benjamin Island, or maybe even to Admiralty Island. To help prepare students who



UAS' student outdoor coordinators Joel Kafka and Sara Dow (above) may just have "the best jobs on campus."

have little or no kayak experience, they are teaching a one-time kayak class on April 14, at the Augustus Brown Swimming Pool.

"We want to get people comfortable in kayaks and teach them basic skills," said Kafka. "It will help prepare them for open water."

In addition to weekend hiking and kayaking, the two are planning a repeat of last fall's successful mountain bik-

ing adventure. And don't worry if you don't own a bike. "We rented bikes from Mountain Gears last fall," said Dow. "We spent the day riding all over, but Perseverance Trail was particularly fun."

If you have a great trip in mind or just want to find out what's on the outdoor schedule, you can contact Dow and Kafka through the Student Activities/Housing office at 465-6528.

## Adventure in the great outdoors

Now that daylight sticks around longer than your morning coffee, it's time to get outside! Our most intrepid reporter offers a guide to some great non-indoor activities

By Dave Kiel  
Whalesong Reporter

Exercise is good for you. Duh. Tell me something I don't know. Has a day gone by in the last year when you didn't hear something about the benefits of exercise? It's a given. You gotta do it. And during the winter in Alaska, that usually means indoors.

Pumping iron with free weights or on the Nautilus machines. Swimming laps at the pool. Step-aerobics, Life-Cycles, Nordic-Tracks, treadmills, stairmasters, thighmasters all have something in common, other than keeping you toned and honed. They're all indoors.

Indoor exercise is a necessary evil in Southeast Alaska. With our long, dark winter days, outdoor exercise is easy to avoid. But indoor workouts have a big problem — they get boring. Now that the daylight sticks around longer than your morning coffee, and outside temperatures don't require seven layers of polarfleece, it's time to get back outside.

I won't insult you with garbage like, "outdoor workouts are so exhal-

ating!" Let's face it, outdoor exercise in Juneau even in the summer means you're gonna get wet and cold. But don't let that stop you. Outdoor exercise offers the one thing you need right now: variety.

And just to prove what a variety there is, I decided to list as many different ways to exercise outdoors as I could. Alaskans are pretty hardy, and if it can be done outdoors, someone in Southeast has done it already.

Some of these activities require nothing more than 30 minutes and stepping out your front door. Some take weeks of planning and a big chunk of cash. Some are enormously popular. Some are hopelessly obscure. But none of them are boring.



**Hiking:** Juneau enjoys an extensive trail system. There are 84 trails that can be accessed from the Juneau road system. They range in length from 100 yard-long beach access paths to long, tough alpine treks. Trails exist on U.S. Forest Service, State, and city land. No matter where you live in the borough, there's a trailhead not far away. All that's required are hiking boots (sometimes rubber boots),

a water bottle, food, and a jacket. There are two excellent hiking books available. Pick up a copy of the USFS trail guide (\$1.00), and 90 Short Walks Around Juneau, by Mary Lou King (\$1.50).



**Trail Running:** You can always run on the road, but many runners like it better in the woods. Same as hiking. Just replace your boots with running shoes. Popular running trails are Perseverance Trail in the downtown area, and the East and West Glacier Trails in the Mendenhall Valley.



**Snowshoeing:** Snowshoes are the perfect accessory for spring and early summer hikes. Strap them to your day pack on a spring hike that has an elevation gain. When you hit the snowline, you don't have to turn around — just keep going up!



**Snowboarding:** A great spring activity. Good snowboarding conditions can exist into June at higher elevations. Just because Eaglecrest closes doesn't mean you



**Cross-country skiing:** Like snowboarding, you have to "earn your turns," and that means carrying your skis, but gliding across an alpine ridge on a warm, spring day is something that will never get boring.



**Rock climbing:** Rock climbing? In Juneau? Yes, there are some demanding, multi-pitch climbs in close proximity on good granite. The downside is: To get to them requires a serious time commitment and top-notch glacier travel skills or money for a helicopter ride.

If you're a climber, you know what I'm talking about. On the bright side, a hike up the Granite Basin or West Glacier Trails can put you into some good bouldering terrain. Okay, so it won't get you sharp enough to flash *To Bolt Or Not To Be*, but a good round of bouldering will work you hard enough to keep you from looking like a dork when you stop by Smith or your way to the Valley and Joshua Tree.

See Adventure page #13



## New York! New York! A west coast girl's perceptions of the big city

By Marsha J. Thomason  
Whalesong Reporter

Over Spring Break, Brooke Rohweder, editor of the *Whalesong*, and I journeyed to New York for the 18th annual College Media Convention, put on by Columbia University. There were over 200 workshops conducted to assist college and prep school students in their journalistic endeavors. If asked to describe the event in a word, I'd have to say, "Awesome!"

For four days and five nights, we had the opportunity to attend workshops from 8-5 p.m. as well as to take tours of NBC, The Associated Press headquarters, The New York Times, and the Phil Donahue show.

The convention was held

area went down.

In the five days that we wandered the streets of Manhattan on foot, by cab, and by subway, I was pleasantly surprised at how friendly, helpful, and polite people were.

I must report that the cab drivers weren't rude and they always took the shortest, quickest route to our desired destination. I wasn't mugged, no one tried to run a scam on me as I stood at a crosswalk, I came home with all my jewelry, and no lewd or lascivious behavior was projected towards us.

When I ventured up to Harlem (70 blocks on foot) to use the library at Columbia University (hello! there are at least six libraries on that campus), and eat at a restaurant that UAS Prof. Pat Fitzgerald recommended, I assumed I might encounter something strange.

Nothing happened until I stood among the "stacks" (in the main library) and tears rolled down my face. The staff thought I was strange, but having never experienced so many books in my life, I was overwhelmed.

Another afternoon, I hoofed it to "Hell's Kitchen" (reportedly another seamy section of the city) to buy t-shirts

at the local motorcycle

shop. Non-eventful.

Well, that's not entirely true. When the guard dog charged out of the backroom of the Harley Shop to attack the neighborhoods' roving Rottweiler and Joey (owner of the store) shut the doors as the pit raced from the back, I was temporarily trapped in a small space between the two dogs.

It was a spiritual experience (it did allow me a moment of prayer) but, I don't think this counts as a true "scary city experience" because it was two dogs in conflict....

On Saturday, March 16th, St. Patrick's Day was celebrated in New

York; our workshops were over at 2:00 p.m. so Brooke and I headed for "Greenwich Village" to shop, eat dinner and check out the hottest blues club in the "East Village."

As we ventured "Downtown" we came upon some of the Nation of Islam's Muslim members (everyone seems to have a corner to present their respective political agendas). They were sharing their beliefs with anyone that would listen and I entered into a conversation with one of the "security" members (naturally).

I had been warned that these men were among "some of the more dangerous elements" of the city, yet this human being was one of the more intelligent people I have encountered in my lifetime. There was no rabid exchange of opposing ideologies. We were just two people on this planet attempting to respect one another's hopes at a peaceful life.

I suppose if I walked around scrutinizing my fellow man and passing judgment on a regular basis, I might have had something to fear. Fortunately, it is something that I strive not to do, as well as to not let other's perceptions influence mine.

One tragic event did take place; fortunately it did not involve us. As Brooke and I left the "Harley Davidson Cafe", in Manhattan, a police officer walked up, saying hello to the door men and expressing his boredom. Several hours later,



The author, about to enjoy a meal at the Harley Davidson cafe in Manhattan. Behind her is a cycle owned by Billy Joel. (Photo by B. Rohweder)

two of his fellow officers were shot in the line of duty in Brooklyn. One died. I have to wonder if he thought about how lucky he was to be "bored" that evening?

Miraculously, that was only the eighth officer killed in 10 years in New York. We were able to inquire about the surviving officer's condition and offer condolences for the loss of the other. In a supposedly "hostile, dangerous, city" I found myself surrounded by caring, compassionate folk that appreciated strangers reaching out in a time of tragedy.

I am really grateful I took

the opportunity to attend this event. I learned so much. I met wonderful people and my perception of New York is delightful.

One of the highlights of the trip was talking to Mr. Danzig, vice president of the Hearst Corporation and giving him a copy of the *Whalesong*. He told Brooke and I to "never be afraid to go after what you want. What is there to fear?"

Thanks again UAS, for allowing me this opportunity as visiting student. By the way...do we have an exchange program in place with Columbia? Joke!



Administrative building (formerly a library) at Columbia University in Harlem. (Photo by MJT)

## A conversation with Sheila Nickerson

The author of *Disappearance: A Map*, explains the evolution of her most recent book

By Marsha J. Thomason  
Whalesong Reporter

Upon arriving at the home of Sheila Nickerson, I immediately felt at ease. The simplicity and elegance of this woman is at once comforting and reassuring. Having only glanced briefly at the book, *Disappearance: A Map*, I felt I was not prepared to discuss its contents. Neither one of us knew, however, what was to transpire in the brief time we shared in discourse.

Born in New York city, in 1942, Nickerson graduated in 1960 from the Chapin School in New York. She then went

published in various periodicals such as *Hawaii Pacific Review*, *Rhino*, and *Alaska Quarterly Review*.

All this work has culminated in numerous awards and grants, speaking engagements and book readings. I caught her as she was preparing to fly out to Valdez to lecture on "Poetry and Physics."

We settled in the living room of her home. After she explained to me about the behavior of the most incredible Absynian cat, who is mourning the loss of the dog (the dog has recently passed and so disappeared, as the people in

**"There is a natural flowing in and out of events in our lives. People are a part of those events."**

on to graduate in 1964 with a B.A. in English (magna cum laude), from Bryn Mawr College. In 1985 Nickerson attained her Ph.D. in Creative Writing from The Union Institute.

When moving to Alaska from Colorado in 1971 with her husband, Martin, and two small children, she boarded the ferry not knowing what to expect.

Throughout her book, Nickerson relates specific personal information concerning her life as preludes to chapters. *Record 1* indicates a conversation she had with a pursuer. Seems he asked her "if she was going to be happy in Juneau." His question brought laughter. How was she to know, she writes, if she would be happy somewhere she hadn't been to yet?

Looking over her accomplishments in the years that she has resided here, one would surmise that Nickerson has not only been happy, she has been successful, inspired, and incredibly busy.

A few of Nickerson's endeavors while residing in Alaska include: Editor of *Alaska's Wildlife*, writer-in-residence, Assistant Professor at University of Alaska Southeast, and Poet Laureate of Alaska (1977-1981).

As an author, Nickerson has written and published eleven books, a full length musical produced by Perseverance Theatre titled *The Enchanted Halibut*, and has had approximately 300 poems

Nickerson's book), I ask Nickerson my first question: MT: What was the motivation behind writing this book and how would you describe it to readers?

SN: "This was a personal look...what is this process called disappearance?...can a person disappear completely? It turned into a spiritual quest."

"I started with a historical look back to the 18th century, moved forward in time to the present. I started in July of '92 and worked through November of '92, looking at every case I could; I then wove the accounts in with personal reflections."

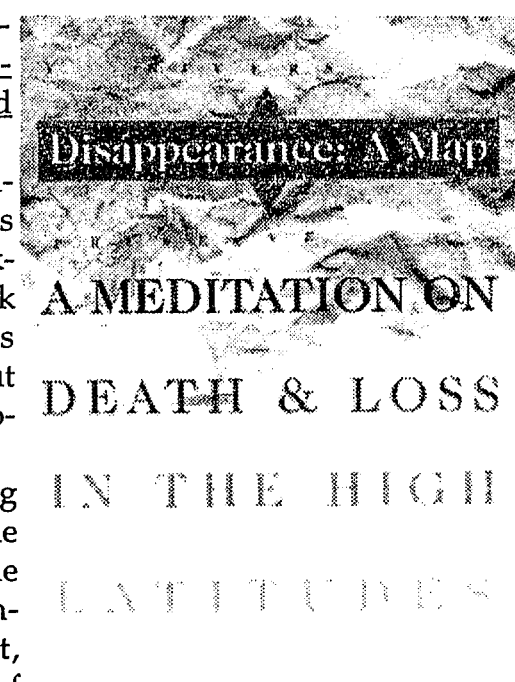
"I would describe this book as multi-layered. It is historical, chronological; it gives a personal view of disappearance and is autobiographical." MT: "Autobiographical in what way?"

SN: "I was embarking on an early retirement. I had a sense of disappearance of self. I was faced with entering into my own disappearance. Was this an opening? A closing? Was there loss?"

Were these openings joy centered?" MT: "Do you feel that disappearance doesn't necessarily have to mean a physical death?"

SN: "Most certainly. People disappear in and out of our lives regularly just in living their lives."

MT: "One of the interesting things I have experienced is, since transferring here in Janu-



Disappearance: A Map

A MEDITATION ON DEATH & LOSS IN THE HIGH LATITUDES

by Sheila Nickerson

Foreword by Martin Nickerson

Illustrations by Martin Nickerson

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## Thrills, chills, and spills: The Banff Mountain Film Festival

Recent Centennial Hall show one of 111 stops for renowned program

By Dave Kiel  
Whalesong Reporter

If you attended the Banff Mountain Film Festival expecting climbing (thrills), snowboarding (chills), and kayaking (spills), then you weren't disappointed. From big-wall climbing in Yosemite, to monster whitewater in Siberia, this show had something for everyone.

Now in its 20th year, the film festival is held every November in Banff, a town of 8,000 in the Canadian Rockies. The show became so popular the festival organizers decided to take it on the road. Juneau was just one of 111 stops the festival is making this year.

Three-and-a-half hours of non-stop mountain cinematography played to a packed house at Centennial Hall on March 20. Activities Director Tish Griffen organized the Juneau show. "We sold 260 tickets this year," she said. "It was great to have an enthusiastic, capacity crowd." Griffen said she plans on making it an annual event. "We brought the show here in 1994, but last year, Centennial Hall was full and we couldn't get a venue."

Over 100 films were entered in this year's competition, 36 made the final screening, and seven were chosen for the international tour.

The seven films shown at Centennial Hall had about as much in common as English and algebra. Some were gut-wrenching, pulse-pounding, edge-of-your-seat, adrenaline-fests. Others could put you to sleep. Here are my impressions, in no particular order.

**Yackieberry Jam:** This flick absolutely sizzled. Whitewater kayaking at it's best. Innovative camera angles. An artfully arranged musical score that ranged from rock to Bach. And best of all, it was really, really funny.

Throughout the film, kayakers would paddle up to the camera and say pseudo-philosophical things like, "Kayaking is good for your karma, you know, like, hey man, it's so peaceful." Then the camera would immediately shift to show the same kayaker slamming into the water face first after dropping off a 20 foot waterfall. Hey, good karma man.

The highlight came when the words "Obligatory Raft Carnage," flashed across the screen. A group of paddle-rafters were then shown getting sucked into a whitewater hell. Their raft was partially sucked under by the force of the water. One member of the group was flung into the air repeatedly and beaten unmercifully by the ponding water. He thrashed and flailed helplessly for so long the audience almost stopped laughing and started feeling sorry for him — almost.

**Loco Motion:** This film was actually two stories in one. It was a historical piece on the Selkirk mountains of British Columbia, and the building of the railroad that crossed it just prior to the turn of the century.

The story of the construction was amazing, as were the old photographs. Battling snow depths of up to 50 feet, engineers and construction workers forged ahead, despite warnings from the native people that the snow gods would be angry. They were. And they took their revenge.

Massive avalanches and numerous deaths finally forced a long section of the track to be closed. It was re-routed underground for eight kilometers (five miles).

The remainder of the film showed some great snowboarding in absolutely stunning terrain. A big

See Film page #12



T. Terry Harvey's play "Just Like That"

## Eccentricities, interactions of five "bored" old men creates lively entertainment

By Marcy L. Peska  
Whalesong Reporter

How much trouble can five bored old men living in a lovely little boarding house get into? In the play "Just Like That", Walter, Albert, Patrick, Luther, and especially Logan, can get into a whole bath of hot water! Between trying to cash a misprinted check, fussing with the television reception, and harassing each other, the antics of these five characters are both entertaining and touching.

Each of these characters has a rich and well-rounded personality and their individual eccentricities bring this play to life.

Patrick, played by George Rogers, with his wing-like eyebrows and his green wardrobe, is the most sensitive of the characters, proving insightful and wise in the role of informal therapist. Though he's only an old fisherman from Meyer's Chuck, growing old without family, Patrick has a wealth of understanding and sympathy and can give great advice about grief, children, and just getting along.

Logan, played by Rick Bundy, is the rascal of the group, and in his obsession with baseball and his desire to live an exciting life, Logan instigates as much trouble and adventure as he can. Throughout this play Logan often riles Mrs. Radnare, the rather prim and overwhelmed owner of the boarding house, played by Margie Ellen.

Luther, played by Charles Cardwell, is a crusty old pessimist, lounging around in his mechanic overalls and hoarding his *Sunset* magazine. Though Luther always enters reluctantly into adventures, he adds a surly spice to each one, often provoking laughter from the audience.

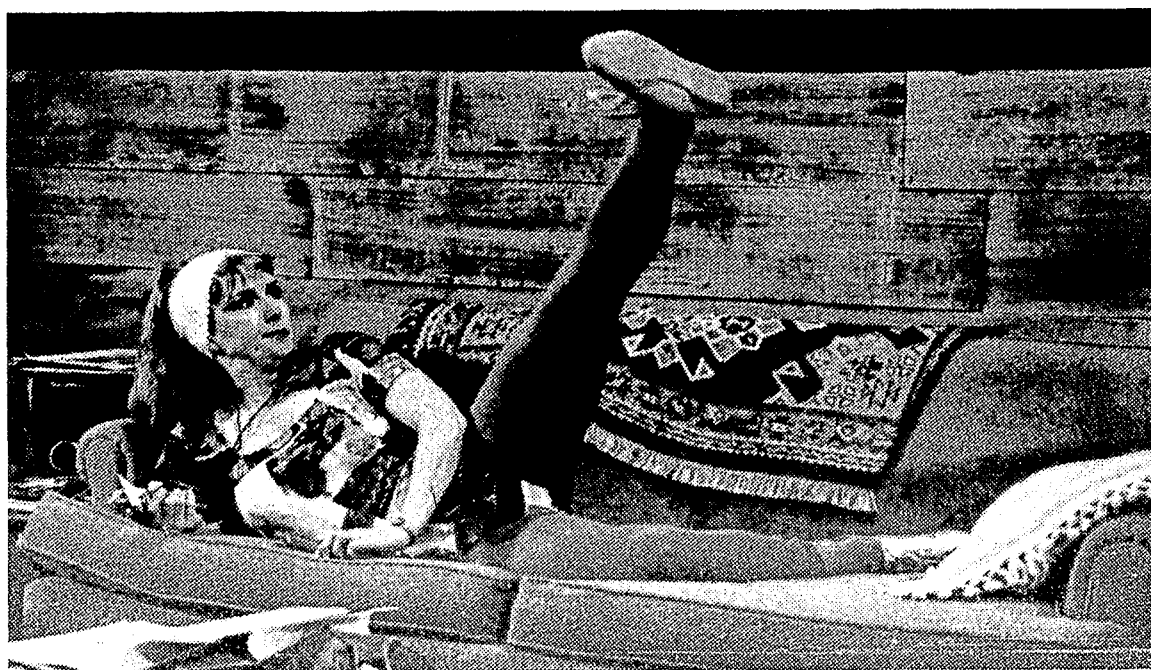
Albert, played by Gary Waid, is a Tlingit from Angoon, and with his quiet ways and untroubled relations with those around him, he at first seems almost extraneous within this lively group. But, this vested character proves to have surprising depth and pulls the group closer together, helping them to heal when they are most troubled.

Walter, played by Bob Rose, is rather simple and extremely hard of hearing. This makes him a perfect target for Logan, who entices him into the very thick of the trouble, sometimes getting much more than he bargained for from this character who somehow comes out of each escapade, innocent and blameless.

**Throughout the course of this play, the audience comes to have an affection for these characters who can't only make the audience laugh, but, can also bring us to the verge of tears.**

Throughout the course of this play, the audience comes to have an affection for these characters, with their sometimes foul mouths and grating ways; these characters who can not only make the audience laugh, but, can also bring us to the verge of tears by showing us that everyone experiences anger, loss, regret, and confusion, as well as love, joy, and friendship.

This touching play was enhanced by a beautiful and elaborate set that included all the details: aged plank walls, stone fireplace, bedraggled bear hide on one wall, ratty gold couch,



Carol Thompson as Miss Shirley, the candy-bar chomping, brightly-clad aerobics instructor in "Just Like That". The play runs through Sunday, April 7.

mounted deer bust, and assorted photos and pictures. And, of course, the centrally located television!

The costumes also added an important dimension to the play, realistically fleshing out and adding a certain spark to the personalities of the characters. Rainbow suspenders, neon pumpkin boxing shorts, old sweater vests, plaid polyester slacks; all these helped to paint these characters for the audience.

At this point, Miss Shirley, the candy-bar-chomping aerobics teacher, played by Carol Thompson, must be mentioned, since she immediately steals the afternoon exercise scene with her satirized stereotypical character and her brightly colored body suit and wide sequined head band.

Although I was impressed by the quality of acting from all five of the main characters, I sometimes found it hard to keep in mind that the characters of Logan, Luther, Walter, and Albert were quite a bit

older than the actors who played them. Perhaps they should have sported white wigs or fake wrinkles!

This play written by the Juneau Armadillo owner T. Terry Harvey, and presented by Perseverance Theatre, is an engaging and fun play which will be shown at the old KTOO building until April 7.

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## "The Birdcage" uses gentle humor to convey message of acceptance, tolerance

By Ryan Barber & Chris Benson  
Whalesong Movie Critics

"The Birdcage" stars Nathan Lane, Robin Williams, Gene Hackman, and Dianne Wiest. The movie centers around the proposed marriage of Val, the son of Williams and Lane, and Barbara, the daughter of Hackman and Wiest. It is set drag club called the Birdcage, located in South Beach (Miami), Florida.

The main story focuses on the club, which is owned by Armand (Williams). Armand's gay lover Albert (Lane) is the club's main attraction. Major problems arise when their future son's future father-in-law, Senator Keeley (Hackman), who is co-founder of the Coalition for Moral Order, arrives to inspect his daughter's future husband and his family. Armand and Albert attempt to alter their lifestyle to conform to the senator's idea of the perfect right-wing American family.

Chris: "The Birdcage" was a damn good movie. Two thumbs up, probably an A-. On a scale of one to 10 I'd have to give it an eight or nine. I didn't find it quite as funny as I'd expected, but the rest of the audience seemed to disagree with me. And the fact of the matter is, that even without the many funny parts that it did have, it could still carry itself as a good movie, with real characters, and a good message to go along with it.

Williams, oddly enough, played kind of the "straight" gay man, as opposed to Lane, who played his part as the highly feminine, highly emotional drag queen lover of Williams, to perfection. I have no idea what the his name was, but the butler/maid was hilarious. The son was

See Birdcage page #13

## Treatment for Alaska's sex offenders: An inside look

The following is the first part of a three-part series on sexual offending. The first article will deal with the therapists role in rehabilitating offenders, the second part will address issues faced by survivors of sexual assault, and the final installment will consist of causative and rehabilitative issues faced by an offender.

By Annette Nelson-Wright  
Whalesong Reporter

"We want to believe that a sex offender is a creepy guy who comes out from behind a bush in the park and attacks strange women at night...but in general they are not such people. They are very ordinary...some are upstanding members of their community", according to David Salmon, a licensed clinical social worker, interim Executive Director of Tongass Community Counseling Center and coordinator of sex offender treatment program at Tongass.

The usual response to a person convicted of a sexual offense is to either kill him, or lock him up and throw away the key. The reality in Alaska is that very few sexual offenders are sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole, and because there's no death penalty in Alaska, no one ever receives that sentence.

The maximum sentence for 1st degree sexual assault, which consists of intercourse, oral sex or penetration is 30 years in prison. With up to one-third of their sentence reduced for good time, an additional reduction for time already served and a portion of the sentence suspended, an offender usually serves much less than their sentence.

Realistically an offender will be back on the streets in two to eight years. Studies have shown that long-term intensive therapy combined with supervision has reduced the recidivism rates of offenders. Studies have also proven that an offender that is incarcerated without treatment will get worse.

Incarceration without treatment tends to reinforce deviant arousal patterns, as the offender has no appropriate sexual outlets. Add to that the anti-social behavior patterns usually picked-up in prison, and also combine the already present thinking errors an offender has when he or she is incarcerated, and you've got someone much more likely to offend than

someone who has had the benefit of treatment.

Offending usually begins in adolescence or before, rarely does one start offending as an adult. It would be best if young offenders could be reached early, particularly by making more residential treatment programs available. Ideally, these programs would have young offenders immersed in therapy and in a school structured around the residential program's philosophy. Also having recreational activities that reinforce appropriate behaviors and outlets is important. Key to the rehabilitation of young offenders is involving their families in therapy so they can become a supportive network.

Hiland Mountain Correctional Center, (HMCC), located in Eagle River, just outside of Anchorage is devoted mainly to sex offender treatment. The program at Hiland Mountain takes at least 18 months to complete, so to be eligible for the program an offender must have at least a 54 month sentence.

This program allows for time off for good behavior, time served and classification of the prisoner. HMCC has a total of 100 beds for treatment: 15 beds for pre-pre-treatment (sex offender education), 15 beds for pre-treatment (assessment, history, clinical interviews, psychiatric testing, risk assessment, and amenability to treatment), and 70 beds for treatment which consists of three phases: beginning, intermediate and advanced.

Of those offenders that have completed the HMCC program through the advanced level there have been no relapses for a twelve-year period, according to Dr. Tony Mander, State-wide Consultant to the Dept. of Corrections on sex offender treatment. Lemon Creek in Juneau also provides treatment, although on a smaller scale; 24 beds provide pre-treatment and pre-release therapy.

Salmon works with adult perpetrators in the prison setting and also in the community setting. "We provide a forum for sex offenders that are either on probation or parole or incarcerated to honestly look at their behavior and understand it and give them some tools to make healthy changes," he explains.

A tool that is often used is defining an offenders assault cycle. Once an offender can

identify the stages of his assault cycle, he can use this knowledge to manage his behavior to prevent another assault. When an offender attends group therapy, he presents the cycle and the stage that he is currently at. The group can then provide feedback and assist him in breaking the cycle.

Perpetrators also look at their thinking errors, those things that an offender uses to justify and rationalize behavior. Errors in thought include: Casting doubt on the victim, saying that they were tempted or provoked, that events were misconstrued, or that events were misinterpreted.

Offenders also prepare an autobiography and a family

the usual course of action. Of course, an offender must be amenable to therapy, he must want to change, or there is no point in treating him. "The treatment of choice is group therapy, because this is not a problem that people can easily talk about," Salmon said.

When an offender arrives for his first group session, the other members of the group will introduce themselves and disclose in detail their offenses: what their crimes were, who they perpetrated them against, how they ensured the cooperation of their victim, the lasting effects of their offenses on the victims, their pattern of offending, etc. This completely changes the focus of pressure, from that of

not appropriate candidates for treatment. Most treatment providers opt not to work with offenders that are in entrenched denial. Providers try to find cracks in the defense of the offender using confrontation.

Other methods used include filming the offender committing his crime on a mannequin, then showing the film to him. Not only does the latter method refute his denial of the crime, but it also denies him the acceptance of his thinking errors.

According to Salmon, in order to help prevent this crime we need to look at children as potential victims and teach them about good touches, bad touches, and con-

**Studies have shown that long-term intensive therapy combined with supervision has reduced the recidivism rates of offenders. Studies have also proven that an offender that is incarcerated without treatment will get worse.**

history which lists abuse in their family and other contributing factors in their assaults. "We frame all of these things as 'contributing factors' rather than 'excuses' because we don't accept the idea that 'because I was sexually abused that makes it okay for me to sexually abuse someone else' or whatever other traumatic event may have occurred in the offenders past," Salmon said.

Offenders need to be able to recognize these things as stressors in order to be able to change their behavior and keep themselves safe. These are not used as ways to condone or explain away their offense.

A common suggestion when dealing with sex offenders is surgical or chemical castration. This assumes that a sexual offense is purely motivated by sex. An offender's motivation for offending is complex and often involves issues of power, emotion, inadequacy, attitudes towards women and anger, and the things that an offender gets out of an assault aren't necessarily related to his sexual drive, according to Salmon.

Surgical castration is rare, although chemical castration, using psychotropic drugs to reduce the sex drive, is used. Chemical castration has been effective in reducing an offenders sex drive and reducing his acting out behaviors.

A combination of individual and group therapy is

the offender hiding his crimes to that of being completely honest and being an outcast if he doesn't disclose.

Other members of the group that are farther along in their recovery tend to assume leadership positions within the group. These "senior members" help facilitate awareness and recognition of the severity of crimes for newer members who tend to minimize their crimes and are in some sort of denial. When concepts are presented by someone who has offended they tend to be accepted more readily than if presented by a counselor, since the other group members have shared experiences.

Denial is a major factor in therapy with offenders. Therapists expect that 100 percent of offenders are in denial in the early stages of their treatment. Any sort of admission or acceptance of their crime is seen as a hopeful sign, offenders can overcome their denial.

Offenders whose denial is constant, rigid and who are hostile when confronted are

fusing touches, and also to tell. And to tell the person who is violating them that they are going to tell.

A much more difficult challenge is looking at these children as potential offenders, and teaching them about respect, boundaries, how to get their needs met in appropriate way, and also about healthy sexuality. This is not something that can be presented in an school assembly, or something that should be the exclusive domain of educators, but something that needs to begin in the family. Summarized Salmon: "Their (offenders) normality and humanity exists side-by-side with their dangerousness and is not a black and white sort of a situation. Because you like somebody, or you're acquainted with somebody, or you know something about somebody, and it turns out that they're a sex offender it doesn't mean they're not dangerous. Likewise when you read about somebody and don't know them personally, it doesn't mean they're not human."

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## Film from page #9

thumbs-up for the surreal scene of the "snow god." Clad in tattered white sheets that streamed behind him, he floated through a dense stand of trees in a heavy snowstorm, fading in and out of focus, as if he was just waiting to unleash an avalanche. Who would have guessed that the "snow god" rode a snowboard?

**Freeing El Capitan:** A Journey to Liberation: This was my favorite film, despite some minor flaws. It was a chronicle of super-climber Lynn Hill's attempt to free-climb the Nose Route on El Capitan in under 24 hours.

Hill herself narrated the film, and either she is too modest, or she is the most understated person in the universe.

Picture this: 2,900 feet of climbing are behind her. She has been moving upward, over difficult vertical granite, for 22 hours. She is 100 feet from the top. Her next line? "I suddenly felt very tired." Gee Lynn, I wonder why?

And I couldn't figure out if the title. Was *A Journey to Liberation*, about freeing the Nose (she was the first to do so), or about the fact that she's a woman who is regarded as an equal by the best male climbers? Maybe it was both.

Despite this, and the somewhat incongruous narration, the climbing scenes were incredible. Watching Hill tiptoe around a corner, bury an index and middle finger to the first knuckle in a microscopic crack, then pull herself up on those two digits, brought tears to my eyes. Just watching made

my fingers hurt. When she peeled off the wall, 2,000-plus feet off the deck, the audience gasped.

Awesome film. Awesome climber.

**Avalanche:** National Geographic. Their usual flawless cinematography. Incredible scenes of total destruction. Amazing survival stories. Despite all that, the highlight was an interview with an avalanche control crew. Their job is to blast potential slides from a helicopter. A quote from the pilot: "Remember when you were a kid? What would have possibly been more cool than flying around in the mountains tossing bombs out of a helicopter?" What would indeed?

Excellent film. Typical of National

Throughout the film, kayakers would paddle up to the camera and say pseudo-philosophical things like, "Kayaking is good for your karma, you know, like, hey man, it's so peaceful." Then the camera would immediately shift to show the same kayaker slamming into the water face first after dropping off a 20 foot waterfall.

Geographic's high standards.

**Child of the Wind:** A biography of British Columbia mountaineer, John Clarke. This film won the award for *Best Climbing Film* at the festival in Banff.

Starring Clarke himself, who, even though he's aging, is still incredibly active. The scenes were shot in the B.C. coast range where Clarke has recorded

more than 600 first ascents, and seen more of the coast range than anyone on the planet.

The musical score by Bruce Cockburn was an additional bonus. Stunning photography. Great story. Colorful character. The film deserved the award.

**A Glorious Way To Die:** This film won the *Best Mountain Sports Film* award, and I can't figure out why. It chronicled a group of Russian rafters who ran some monstrous-looking whitewater in the remote Altai Mountains of Siberia.

It had potential. These guys not only made their own rafts, but also their own wetsuits, lifejackets, tents,

bring back their friends, and the film even failed to show how it would bring closure to their deaths.

The homemade gear and big-time whitewater made it worth watching, but the man-subduing-nature theme went out a long time ago.

**Supersonic Skysurfer:** A short ten minute film. Very weird. The star is Yves, a fighter pilot in the French Air Force he flies a Mirage jet. And he's a skysurfer.

Okay, when I saw him jump out of the plane high over the French Alps, with a snowboard strapped on, I felt like I was watching a Mountain Dew commercial. "Been there, seen that." But Yves was different. Sure, he did the obligatory acrobatics, but he continued them after his chute opened. Banking left and right at impossible angles, I almost got airsick watching him.

Then he touched down on the snow, hit a quick-release on his chute, and rode his snowboard the rest of the way down. Wow. But he was just getting warmed up.

He jumped again with what appeared to be a trash can lid strapped to his feet. The acrobatics he performed on this "disk," were bizarre, to say the least.

Then he jumped again. This time he was astride a miniature model of his Mirage jet. It looked incredibly strange to see a guy riding an airplane across the sky. Sort of gave you that Godzilla-stomping-through-downtown-Tokyo feeling.

Weird, but very cool.

## Adventure from page #7



**Ice-climbing:** In the summer? Why not. We are fortunate to have a very accessible glacier in our backyard, an excellent place to refine your crampon technique. Do yourself a favor though, get on the ice from the West Glacier Trail. It's a longer hike than the east side, but it's much safer. If you have no experience, this goes without saying: Go with someone who knows what they're doing!



**Mountain biking:** Many of Juneau's trails are too difficult to ride, but there are some spots that are good for beginners and intermediates. Perseverance Trail is a great ride and is no longer closed to mountain bikes. Whatever you do, don't ride it on a clear-weather weekend. Half the population of Juneau hikes this trail when the sun shines. The Dredge Lake area also has some good terrain, but keep an eye (and ear) out for off-road vehicles, you have to share. The East Glacier Trail is also good if the tourist traffic is light.



**Kayaking:** This is a sport that was tailor-made for Southeast Alaska. We are right smack in the middle of some of the best kayaking in the world. Kayaks are light, easy to launch, and can go as far as your skills will take you. No need to say more, as there is a wealth of local information on the subject. Don't forget to acquire the necessary skills BEFORE you tackle something serious.



**Swimming:** Outside? Don't look so surprised. A number of manufacturers make wetsuits that are specifically designed for cold-water swimming. They were born when triathlons were booming in popularity, and are actually quite comfortable to swim in. The best part is, you don't have to share a pool lane

with that old dude who thinks he looks good in a speedo, but should probably be arrested for wearing it.



**Surfing:** If you were incredulous about swimming, you really won't believe this one. A few months back, SURFER MAGAZINE did a story on surfing in Alaska. Of course, you have to get to Sitka, Yakutat, or somewhere on the outer coast, but the waves are there. Listen to the recorded weather forecast. The swell size they talk about would make Hawaiians jealous.

I can remember working for the Forest Service on the west coast of Kruzof Island. I sat on the beach after work one day feeling the ground shake as big, menacing North Pacific swells reared up, pitched out, and slammed the offshore reef as they peeled off in an endless series of perfect lefts. Scary, but enticing. Rumor in the surf world is that the next big-wave hotspot will be somewhere in the North Pacific.



**Whitewater Kayaking and Rafting:** Well, we have the Mendenhall River, and it has roughly one-mile of whitewater when the river level is up. The Mendenhall winds through a suburban, Mendenhall Valley neighborhood and that's probably why so many people underestimate it. If you're gonna be a river-rat, get proper instruction. People have died on this river; water temperature is just above freezing. If you have whitewater experience, either park next to Skaters Cabin and paddle across the lake, or



Anke Lake (above) is a great place to cross country ski (ice permitting, of course). Nathaniel Munson

pull into the Dredge Lake parking lot, and get in just upstream. When the river is in flood, it's a blast.

This list is only partial. There are a lot more ways to exercise outdoors in Southeast Alaska. So no more excuses for not getting outside. You'll be glad you did.

## Birdcage from page #10

kind of an ass, and I must say that I was rather disappointed with his character.

The best part was when they were trying to change Williams' and Lane's house from a gay man's paradise, which contained countless statues and paintings of naked men, into a heterosexual den fully equipped with playboys in the bathroom (because it's "what they read"), and a big moosehead on the wall (all guys should have one).

The message that I mentioned before is one of the oldest in the book: Why can't we all get along and just be accepted for who and what we are? The gay people in the movie wanted to be accepted, not as regular people, but as limpwristed, cross-dressing human beings (don't we all), and although it did use their over-played mannerisms for comic purposes, I think it was done in a very tasteful and understanding way.

**Ryan:** I was a little apprehensive before the movie. I was worried that it might be the kind of annoying gay humor that Damon Wayans likes to do or that Williams would go totally overboard and make a complete fool out of himself like he did so often during his cocaine days in the early eighties. Luckily, neither of my worries were manifested in the movie.

"The Birdcage" had a vibrant energy and a conveyed a very good sense of South Beach atmosphere. I do agree with Chris that it wasn't quite as funny as some of the other idiots in the theater thought, but it was amusing throughout.

Many of the laughs came at the expense of Gene Hackman, who played the homophobic Sen. Keeley quite well. Wiest was also very funny as the Barbara Bush look-alike mother, whose conservative views matched Keeley's perfectly.

The real beauty of the whole movie was that it allowed us to laugh at the stupidity of the religious right without being overly insulting, boring, or preachy. I have no idea where Chris got all his rating scales, but I'd give the movie high ratings for energy, comedy, message, and total product.

## Crime from page #3

basic humane treatment." Am I to infer that people incarcerated are supposed to have a life of luxury, all the freedoms available, a life of privilege and dignity and have their self-esteem boosted everyday?

Prison is supposed to be punishment. It is not supposed to be a nice place with all of the amenities of home. Believe it or not, there are people not incarcerated who have to purchase cable in order to watch television. But guess what? They also have to pay for food, electric, car payments, gas, furniture, rent/mortgage, insurance and for students books and tuition. And guess what else??

They have to have jobs to do this!!!! Sometimes we go to the store and they are out of an item we need, so we too must wait. (FYI: The key is proper planning. If you don't wait until you're completely out of something to buy some more, but plan ahead, then you won't have to do without.) As far as I know, most places don't allow smoking indoors, certainly not very many public places, and there are apartments for rent that won't allow you to smoke in them.

Pusich talks of loss of freedom. She failed to mention that the victims of her crime, a father Mark, his son Brian, and Brian's friend Jaime are no longer free, they are dead. How much dignity do you suppose Pusich had as her car slammed into theirs while she was driving drunk? Do you suppose that Mark, Brian and Jaime's survivors have a great deal of self-esteem? How do you define "basic humane treatment"? I wouldn't define it by slaughtering innocents because of your own irresponsibility and then whining about what a horrible life you now have. Three innocent people were killed. That is a greater debt than Pusich will ever pay. Indeed, I think Pusich is lucky that she is only going to be in prison for 18 years. Had I been the judge I would not have been nearly so merciful.

I am so tired of hearing about prisoners who are so deprived. They should be lucky they aren't imprisoned in Honduras or Mexico. Perhaps then I could cut them some slack about horrible conditions. Prisoners in America, and Alaska especially, have modern facilities, libraries, fitness areas, and educational opportunities. Guess what? Prison is not supposed to be a place that makes you feel "warm and fuzzy" inside. Prison is not a spa, it is not somewhere people go to enjoy themselves and be pampered. It is PUNISHMENT!!! I didn't think that this was a new concept.

Those of us that enjoy the freedoms that Pusich misses so much have them at a cost: we are law abiding citizens and we realize that for each of our actions there are consequences and we take responsibility for both the actions and the resultant consequences. We take actions that result in consequences that allow us to remain unincarcerated. I think it is Ms. Pusich that needs to get a grip, not I, nor anyone else that follows the law. If you don't break the law, then SB 175 won't be a problem for you. Imagine that.

Questions? Comments? Death Threats? E-mail them to me at JSAMN1.



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## Conference from page #1

ship to come.

Following are some jewels of wisdom to ponder that resulted from the coming together of these women and men.

Arless Sturgulewski, former gubernatorial candidate, relayed seven key points to refer to as you move through life: 1) Learn from mistakes; 2) set goals; 3) cultivate communication skills; 4) take risks; 5) seek a mentor; 6) stay healthy; 7) plan retirement.

Keynote Speaker, Laura Liswood, director of the Women's Leadership Project, journeyed to various countries to interview female presidents and prime ministers.

Reflecting on her experience, Liswood said, "I am not a journalist...I think of how I operate as experiential, learning as I go...it never occurred to me I couldn't ask these women for interviews...ask me anything. If you don't ask, you always get a no."

If there is any doubt that Liswood doesn't walk her talk, have her relay the story on how she got an interview with Benazir Bhutto, former Prime Minister of Pakistan, the first female leader of a Muslim state.

Liswood was advised if she wanted to talk to Bhutto, the best thing to do was to go to Pakistan and wait. She went and waited for ten days (she knows the Marriott) and was granted an interview three hours before her flight was scheduled to leave.

Liswood said she believes her life experiences form a "patchwork quilt" of knowledge she draws upon as she tackles projects. "What is initially unthinkable, looks impossible, is ultimately inevitable," she said.

State Senate President Drue Pearce stressed the importance of awareness in what we are modeling to our children. "Everything I do is imprinted on my child," said Pearce. She has the ability to instill one with a desire to take responsibility for one's actions; you never know what young person may be look-

ing to you as a role model.

House Speaker Gail Phillips emphasized putting "all your skills on a resume, including life skills such as the ability to oil and lube a piece of heavy equipment."

Phillips listed personal traits that can be utilized to maximum benefit towards success in career and life. Some of these were self-discipline, flexibility, sense of humor. She advised to "not take one's self too seriously."

Phillips also said, "set goals, learn to speak in public (Dale Carnegie's class on public speaking is excellent), and recognize all folks have a different viewpoint."

Selina Everson, of the Alaska Native Sisterhood, gave a brief, but detailed, history of Tlingit tradition and relayed the importance of unity, cultural aware-

### Supreme Court Justice Dana Fabe believes it is her responsibility to "humanize the justice system, not feminize it."

ness, and fostering a strong, supportive family.

Supreme Court Justice Dana Fabe said she believes that it is her responsibility to "humanize the justice system, not feminize it." For example, Fabe has broken ground with alternative methods concerning maternity leave and work-share programs.

It is imperative to mention the creative, multi-cultural, multi-racial methods employed to present this conference; for one, there were invocations from differing spiritual belief systems to open the day's sessions.

Mary Nelson led the attendees in Creative Movement. These sessions were spontaneous stretches, movements, and connections. Shirley Mae S. Staten, a member of the International Women's Choir, led

two workshops of musical harmony which resulted in a performance at the Saturday evening entertainment session held at the high school.

Staten took on the task of refining the singing skills of local women, and taught them five songs. She joined their voices with attending members of the IWC and led them with her unique vocal style. She believes that "every woman has a voice", and she's not one to argue with on that point.

The highlight of the artistic element to this conference was Ladjamaya, Artist-in-Residence in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. An actress, director, and singer, Ladjamaya is a former United Nations administrative assistant.

Ladjamaya performed for an hour-and-a-half on "The Black Experience - A Cry for World Peace." There was hardly a dry eye or an untouched heart in the house. Ladjamaya possesses the uncanny ability to awaken souls from a long slumber, raise voices to the sky, and implore an end to racial injustice.

A conversation overheard in the foyer between Ladjamaya and a conference participant: "Last night I dreamt of the tar and feathering you spoke of in your presentation. It was so real...as it was happening to me. Thank You! I will not be the same...you are so special!" This was followed by an embrace.

That is the only way to describe what took place at this first Alaska Women's Conference...it was so special. For some, a life-changing experience, a birthing place of a new ideas, a potlatch in a sense; human beings coming together to thank one another, honor one another, and share their experience, strength, and hope as they join together to become one race of human beings.

In conversation, many comments were made and one most often overheard concerned the wind. For the majority of the time, the wind outside was blowing; this could be interpreted as being symbolic. Ah yes, One could say *the winds of change are upon us....*

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## Salary from page #1

In an effort to resolve inequity within the pay of faculty members at UAS, the chancellor said he will ask the Faculty Senate to formally back his raise proposal before making his case to the Board of Regents.

Chancellor Lind said after the equity raises are awarded, he wants to sit down with faculty to establish objective criteria for granting performance-related annual raises. "This has not yet been done," he said, "but we must resolve the inequity problems first."

According to Dr. Dennis Russell, Chairman of the Faculty and Administrative Affairs Committee, the raise proposal is "a very fair plan." Russell said, "At the last faculty meeting those in attendance were unanimous in support of Marshall."

Based on CUPA averages, the most underpaid faculty member at UAS is Dr. William Brown, professor of economics. Even after a 10 percent raise, he would still be almost 10 percent below the CUPA national average and 20 percent below the chancellor's target at UAS. Although he said individual performance is not addressed by the one-time proposal, Brown supports the chancellor.

Other faculty are less sanguine. "I'm glad the specific equity problem is addressed," said Professor of English Art Petersen, "but it is a poor stop-gap measure. It does not address the need for across-the-board equity with UAF, UAA, and many places down south." He thinks salaries at other UA campuses average about 10 percent above UAS. Unless funds were taken from other university purposes, a general raise would require the Alaska State Legislature to provide additional funding.

Although Chancellor Lind stressed that his equity proposal is "primarily a current employee move." There may also be faculty recruitment considerations. "People are beginning to turn down positions," he said. Lind noted that finalists for faculty positions who visit Juneau for interviews sometimes turn down job offers after they check out the local market for housing and the cost of goods in stores.

Lind hopes an equitable pay scale will encourage faculty candidates to accept positions in the expectation that, after they are hired, they will receive rank and discipline advancement based on a national standard.



Stephanie Anderson  
**Business professor Dr. Bill Brown (above) is the most underpaid faculty member at UAS.**

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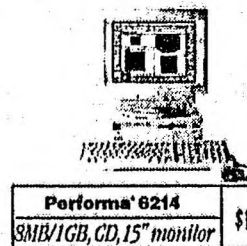
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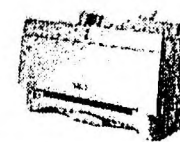
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